

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 6, delete the paragraph beginning with “FIG. 4 illustrates the basic structural components...” and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

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FIG. 4 illustrates the basic structural components of a particular embodiment of bag 10 including an internal molded flexible plastic structure 50 establishing the basic overall shape of bag 10, i.e., establishing a portion 12a of less thickness relative to portion 12b. As seen in the view of FIG. 4, this particular embodiment of bag 10 assumes a generally “figure eight” or substantially “hourglass” shape with portion 12a assuming a relatively smaller loop or lobe portion of the “figure eight” or substantially “hourglass” shape and body portion 12b assuming a relatively larger loop or lobe formation of the “figure eight” or substantially “hourglass” shape. It will be understood, however, that the particular shape adopted for this embodiment of the present invention is not a limiting aspect of the invention. A structural aspect of the present invention includes differentiation in thickness and an ability to provide a padded lumbar support. In other words, the distance across portion 12b is greater than the distance across portion 12a. An overall smooth contoured ergonomically appropriate back support permits user 30 to place the relatively larger-dimensioned body portion 12b in the lumbar region 30a for appropriate back support with the relatively smaller body portion 12a in a lower position, i.e., below portion 12b, when in use as a lumbar support and as illustrated in FIG. 3.

On page 8, delete the paragraph beginning with “While illustrated herein as having ...” and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

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While illustrated herein as having a “figure eight” or substantially hourglass shape, it will be understood that embodiments of the present invention may be implemented in a broad variety of geometries. Important lumbar support functions may be provided in such variety of

geometries having bag portions of differing thickness whereby a relatively thicker portion may be positioned against a user's lumbar back region and the relatively thinner portion providing a base or resting structure against a chair seat and accommodating the contour of the users lower back region.

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On page 8, delete the paragraph beginning with "Generally, a travel bag in accordance with the present invention ..." and replace it with the following amended paragraph:

10 Generally, a travel bag in accordance with the present invention includes a left side, a right side, a front side, a back side, a left side, a right side, a top side, and a bottom side. The front side and back side each may be considered as having an upper portion and a lower portion. The front-to-back separation between the upper portion of the front side and the upper portion of the back side is less than the front-to-back separation between the lower portion of the front side and the lower portion of the back side. In other words, a travel bag that accords with the present invention includes a variation in thickness to create a relatively thicker portion accommodating a user's lumbar back region for ergonomic support thereof. In one particular embodiment, this thickness variation is accommodated by a generally "figure eight" or substantially hourglass shape of the left side and right side.

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